

Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert Recreation Information Update October 11 - 17, 2012

Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Junction of US HWY 395 & SR 136
Lone Pine, California 93545

(760) 876-6222
TDD 876-6228

Open Daily: 8:00am to 5:00pm

ROADS: Major Eastern Sierra roads are open, including HWY 395. Call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623) or visit the website at www.dot.ca.gov for California highway conditions and construction schedules. Call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237) or visit the web at www.nevadadot.com for Nevada roads.

SR 203, the road to the **DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** and Reds Meadow is open (recreation fee area). Visitors should expect traffic delays of up to thirty minutes, as a result of wind-fallen trees removal work. After October 15th there is no overnight parking and the road will not be plowed during, or after, snow storms. Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** (on SR 203) for more information on fees and passes, permits, current recreation updates, trail maps, wilderness conditions and visitor guides; open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm, or call 1-760-924-5500.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open. Hwy 190, between Cow Creek and Salt Creek, has road paving work. Drivers should expect delays of up to twenty minutes on Monday - Friday. Hwy 267, east of Scotty's Castle to the junction of US Highway 95, is closed. Titus Canyon, Salt Creek, Devils Golf Course, West Side and the Charcoal Kilns dirt roads are open. The North Saline Valley road is open; high clearance vehicles required. The South Pass into Saline Valley is posted closed by Inyo County due to rock fall which is blocking the road. The Big Pine Road is closed due to flood damage. Rangers ask visitors traveling to remote desert valleys to leave a complete itinerary at home, obtain a good backcountry road map and be prepared for the unexpected. Drivers need to be sure their vehicle is in good condition and to carry an additional spare tire, extra gas, food and water. For descriptions of backcountry roads, check the website at www.nps.gov/deva ("Plan Your Visit/Things to Do/Outdoor Activities") and the Morning Report for current information.

WEATHER: A low pressure system moving over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave will produce partly cloudy skies, with a chance of showers over the mountains through Friday. Snow level will be around 9,000 feet. A high pressure ridge will build over the weekend, resulting in clear skies and warming temperatures through early next week. Highs have been in the 20s in the mountains, mid 60s in the Owens Valley and mid 90s in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the teens in the mountains, to the 60s in Death Valley.

CAMPGROUNDS: **INYO COUNTY** sites are open. Privately operated campgrounds and RV facilities are open throughout the area. **BISHOP BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** campgrounds at Tuttle Creek (fee/drinking water), Goodale Creek (fee/no drinking water), Horton Creek (fee/drinking water), Crowley Lake (fee/no drinking water) and the Pleasant Valley Pit (fee/no water) are open.

INYO and HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FORESTS, Lone Pine to Bridgeport, some campgrounds are open. Campgrounds at higher elevations are closing for the winter due to near freezing nighttime temperatures that can damage water systems.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - Yosemite Valley campgrounds have sites open and reservable. Reservations are accepted five months in advance on the 15th of each month, for a one-month block through www.recreation.gov; or call 1-877-444-6777. Sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Wawona (SR 41 south of Yosemite Valley), Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120, near Big Oak Flat), Porcupine Flat (closes 10/15), Tamarack Flat (closes 10/15) and Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley. For information, visit the web site at www.nps.gov/yose.

In **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**, open sites include: Mesquite Springs, Texas Springs, Emigrant (tent only/no fee), Wildrose (water/no fee/no campfires), Thorndike (no water/no fee/no campfires/4x4 high clearance vehicles) and Mahogany Flat (no water/no fee/no campfires/4x4 high clearance vehicles). RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort. For more information, visit the web at www.nps.gov/deva.

Camping sites are available year round in the **MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE** at Hole-In-The-Wall and Mid Hills (no water) on a first-come/first-served basis. For information, call 1-760-252-6108, or visit the web at www.nps.gov/moja. Black Canyon Equestrian & Group Campground (across from Hole-In-The-Wall) is open with reservations required, call 1-760-928-2572.

Cooperating Agencies of the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Inyo County

California - Department of Fish & Game

City of Los Angeles - Department of Water & Power

California - Department of Transportation

National Park Service

Bureau of Land Management

Mono County

USDA - Forest Service

FISHING: The general fishing season is open in the Eastern Sierra and many lakes and streams are stocked regularly by the California Department of Fish and Game. The 2012 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide is available at sporting goods stores throughout the region. California fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at www.dfg.ca.gov.

HUNTING: The hunting season for Mountain Quail is open in the Eastern Sierra. General deer season is open in zone X-10 (the Kern Plateau) through 10/14. Deer season, west of the Sierra Nevada crest, is open in zones D-6 (generally north and west of Yosemite National Park), D-7 (primarily Madera and Fresno Counties), D-8 (primarily Tulare County), D-9 (northern Kern County) and D-10 (Kern County). D-17 (primarily San Bernardino County, including the Mojave National Preserve) will open 10/13. Hunters should keep in mind many people use these areas for other types of sports; it's much safer to avoid hunting near developed sites, roads and trails. Hunting is not permitted in National Parks. Hunting regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at www.dfg.ca.gov.

BACKCOUNTRY: Backpackers should be prepared with winter gear for snowy/icy terrain, freezing temperatures and sudden weather changes. **Be Bear Aware** when parking at trailheads; vehicles must not be left with any food or related items that will attract these animals and result in significant damage. Hikers should be aware hunting season for upland game birds and deer is open in the Sierra Nevada (except National Parks) and Eastern Sierra. In areas open to hunting, it's a good idea to wear bright colored clothes and stay on the trails.

BEARS (and other hungry animals, including marmots) are active in the backcountry. Backpackers should be prepared to protect their food (and all other items that emit odors) from such animals at all times! Many trails of the Inyo National Forest, and some areas in Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park, require the use of portable, bear resistant food canisters. They are available to rent at many locations.

WILDERNESS PERMITS are required for overnight travel all year long. Trailhead quotas, which daily limit the number of hikers on trails, are in effect for Inyo National Forest wilderness areas. Permits may be obtained at the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center (Lone Pine), White Mountain Ranger Station in Bishop, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (Lee Vining) during office hours. For information on Inyo National Forest wilderness permits, including the reservation system, please visit the web site at www.fs.usda.gov/inyo.

FIRE DANGER: RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT on the Sequoia National Forest, the Bridgeport and Carson Ranger Districts of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests, the BLM lands of the Bakersfield and California Desert Districts. Restrictions are also in place on state lands within San Bernardino, Inyo and Mono counties.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK is open daily 9:00am to 6:00pm. The museum is open from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Visitors should bring warm clothing, drinking water and food for a visit to Bodie; dogs must be on a six feet leash (recreation fee area).

The **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/TUFA STATE RESERVE** Visitor Center, located 1 mile north of Lee Vining on HWY 395, open 8:00am to 5:00pm daily for displays, information and a video presentation.

Remember the days of the "Slim Princess"! Visit **LAWS RAILROAD MUSEUM & HISTORIC SITE**, four miles north of Bishop on HWY 6, to learn of early days in the Owens Valley. Laws is open daily 10:00am to 4:00pm.

EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM in Independence is open from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily, with exhibits on Inyo County; including a significant collection of Native American baskets and artifacts from Manzanar NHS.

The Interpretive Center at **MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**, located 5 miles south of Independence, is open daily from 9:00am to 5:30pm. Check at the Interpretive Center, or the web at www.nps.gov/manz, for more information.

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER at Furnace Creek is open daily, 8:00am to 5:00pm. **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Reservations for tours are on the web at recreation.gov.

Discover the natural and cultural history of the **MOJAVE DESERT** at the **MATURANGO MUSEUM AND NORTHERN MOJAVE VISITOR CENTER OF THE INDIAN WELLS VALLEY** in Ridgecrest; open daily 10:00am to 5:00pm.

BLM JAWBONE STATION REGIONAL OHV FACILITY is open 9:00am to 5:00pm daily for trip assistance. The station is located 25 miles north of Mojave on SR 14 for pre-trip information; call 1-760-373-1146.

Information on the **MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE** can be obtained daily from 9:00am to 5:00pm at the **Kelso Depot Visitor Center** (off I 15 at Baker or off I 40 on Kelbaker Road). The Visitor Center features exhibits, bookstore, an orientation film and photo exhibit in the Desert Light Gallery. The historic lunch counter known as "The Beanery" is open daily. Enjoy a hot cup of coffee, cold ice cream or a fresh deli sandwich in this unique setting, restored to its 1924 appearance. Kelso Depot ranger talks are offered daily at 11:00am and 2:00pm. The **Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center** is open Wednesday through Sunday, from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

Reports on current recreation conditions, schedules of planned events and detailed information on visitor destinations throughout the Eastern Sierra Nevada and Northern Mojave Desert are available daily at the Visitor Center. 10/11/12kcw